GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5737
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2007
SETBACK TO BSNL MOBILE SERVICE IN ASSAM
Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL mobile service has suffered a serious setback in Assam due to ongoing construction work on the National Highways and theft of fiber cable in addition to internal operational sabotage to facilitate private operators;

(b) if so, whether the BSNL will be able to sustain as a commercially viable organization in the NER;

(c) the action taken by the Government to rectify and to improve the situation;

(d) whether alternate satellite radio system is introduced to ensure uninterrupted services in those vulnerable areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Sir, Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based Cellular Mobile Service of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been affected in Assam due to the following reasons:

(i) Disruption of long distance communication network because of ongoing works of National Highways;

(ii) Theft of Galvanized Iron (GI) pipe;

(iii) Suspected sabotage activity by unknown miscreants.

No case of internal operational sabotage has been found till date in this regard. However, BSNL makes all-out efforts to restore the traffic/ breakdown at the earliest.

(b) During financial year 2005-06, BSNL`s North East Region which consists of three telecom circles namely Assam. North East-I and North East-II, has earned profit to the tune of Rs.199.53 crores. So North East Region circles are commercially viable units of BSNL.

(c) BSNL has lodged complaints with the State Authorities regarding thefts/sabotage. In addition, bandwidth/optical fiber has been leased from infrastructure providers in the area.

(d) & (e) Limited bandwidth on Satellite media is available. Satellite links due to inherent techno-economic constraints, can not provide effective back up for the capacities available in the optical fiber cable system.